

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

EB-07 COME-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 /070 W

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R 141121Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8672

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, GW

SUBJECT: MRCA: POSSIBLE ENTRY INTO F-104 REPLACEMENT
COMPETITION

REF: THE HAGUE 1308

1. THREE ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE GERMAN PRESS
RECENTLY REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE MRCA ENTERING
THE COMPETITION FOR THE F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT.
THE FIRST TWO REPORTS, WHICH APPEARED IN THE BONN GENERAL
ANZEIGER ON MARCH 6 AND 10 RESPECTIVELY, REPORTED THAT
PANAVIA TECHNICIANS (THE COMPANY DEVELOPING THE MRCA)
HAD SPOKEN AT A RECENT MEETING IN ROME ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING THE AIRCRAFT IN THE COMPETITION.
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN
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DEFENSE COOPERATION, CDU DEPUTY KARL DAMM, CRITICIZED

PANAVIA FOR ITS VERY LATE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE SECOND ARTICLE, BASED ON A REPORT APPEARING IN A PARIS NEWS-PAPER, REPORTED THAT THE FRENCH WERE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE MRCA PROJECT AND THAT DASSAULT INTENDED TO GIVE UP ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE COMBAT AIRCRAFT ABBREVIATED "ACF." THE FRG NATIONAL CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER DIE WELT PICKED UP THE THEME ON MARCH 12, REPORTING BASICALLY THE SAME INFORMATION BUT ADDING VARIOUS COST COMPARISONS WHICH SHOWED THE MRCA FAR MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THE CURRENT COMPETITORS. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE NICE IF SEVEN NATO COUNTRIES WERE TO DECIDE TO FLY THE SAME TYPE AIRCRAFT, I.E., THE MRCA.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ARTICLES OF THIS NATURE HAVE APPEARED IN THE GERMAN PRESS. THE GERMAN LUFTWAFFE SYSTEMS PROJECT OFFICER FOR MRCA IN FMOD INDICATED AN OFFER WAS BEING PREPARED AND WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER DURING THE NAAMA (NATO MRCA DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY) MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE DUTCH (REFTEL) AND OTHERS HAVE NOT YET MADE UP THEIR MINDS ON A REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT, WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT A FORMAL OFFER WILL BE MADE AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE FINAL DECISION ON THE F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT WOULD BE DELAYED EVEN LONGER. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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